REMARKS

This Amendment, filed in reply to the Office Action dated March 29, 2006, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11, 12 and 14-16 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are allowed. Claims 9, 11-12, 14-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 9, 11-12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Creutzmann et al. (U.S.P. 4,780,731) in view of Ushirozawa (U.S.P. 6,452,953) and Murayama et al. (U.S.P. 6,130,700). Claims 15-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Creutzmann et al. in view of Murayama et al. and Takesue et al. (U.S.P. 4,837,787). Applicant respectfully submits the following arguments in traversal of the prior art rejections.

Independent claim 9 describes an amount of light correcting means which includes a temperature vs. amount of light table representing a relation between temperature and an amount of light. The Examiner concedes that Creutzmann and Ushirozawa fail to teach these features but cites Murayama to make up for this deficiency.

Referring to col. 10, lines 35-42 of Murayama, the reference teaches that the temperature is monitored at a time of brightness correction, and current values Ds set for the LED light source units are then set. Based on temperature, a current becomes adjusted. It is noted that the current may further become adjusted based on a user preference and photosensitive material sensitivity. Col. 10, lines 50-55. Accordingly, while Murayama teaches a relation between temperature and driving current, assuming a brightness adjustment, there is no table where temperature is related to brightness. In other words, Murayama does not inherently include a

temperature vs. amount of light table as described by claim 9. Therefore, claim 9 is patentable for at least this reason.

In the present invention, the light source is driven in the state where amounts of light are corrected based on a detected temperature, and then amounts of light are adjusted by equalizing the corrected amounts of light detected by the amount-of-light detecting means.

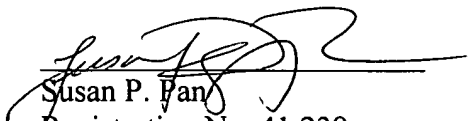
Claims 11-12 and 15 are patentable for analogous reasons. The remaining claims are patentable based on their dependency.

With regard to the Section 112 rejections, the Examiner contends that the light correcting device and light adjusting device are shown only as a single element in the drawings (Fig. 6, element 80). Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to page 9, last partial paragraph, which indicates that the Examiner's position is not correct. Moreover, as shown in Fig. 6, based on a signal from the temperature sensor 86, the temperature detecting circuit 76 transmits temperature information to the control circuit 62. The control circuit 62 controls the amount-of-light controlling circuit 80 to correct the amounts of light. Accordingly, the control circuit 62 may function as the amount-of-light correcting means. With regard to the remaining Section 112 rejections, proposed modifications are set forth above.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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